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South Africa's Trade With the USSR

1. It is true that official Soviet statistics show no trade between the USSR and South Africa. However, Soviet trade statistics omit countries with whom trade is less than $1.0 million per annum. Official South African trade data show imports from the USSR of about $700,000 in 1968 and over $500,000 in 1969. Trade continued in 1970 but statistics are incomplete. No exports (as opposed to imports) from South Africa to the USSR have been reported recently, although we believe some flow takes place through third countries.

2. By value, the largest share of South Africa's imports from the USSR has consisted of animal and vegetable oils and fats. In 1969, these products plus other agricultural commodities made up 50% of the total.

Imports of base metals and articles of base metals in 1969 amounted to 16%. Other imports consisted of miscellaneous manufactured articles, chemicals, and small amounts of mineral ores and concentrates.

3. South Africa also traded with six Eastern European countries: Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Poland, East Germany, and Bulgaria. In 1969, total imports with these countries were valued at $6,898,500 and exports came to $1,219,200.

END OF MESSAGE

Director
Economic Research

5 March 1970

South African Imports from the U.S.S.R.

(~~Million~~ U.S. dollars)

Standard International Trade Classification	1967	1968
Food and live animals	8,648	6,139
Beverages and tobacco		1,813
Crude materials, inedible	14,904	4,322
Mineral fuels		
Fats, animal and vegetable		530,939
Chemicals	81,424	12,174
Manufactured goods	109,094	120,100
Machinery and transport equipment	23,801	4,697
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	42,196	18,255
Other unclassified articles	552	
TOTAL	280,619	698,439

Components may not add to totals due to rounding. Data include imports by South West Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, and Swaziland.

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South African Imports from the U.S.S.R

(~~millions~~ U.S. dollars)

Abbreviated Brussels Nomenclature	1969	Jan-Sept 1970
Animals and animal products	4,918	-
Vegetable products		
Fats, animal and vegetable	239,827	-
Prepared foodstuffs	8,924	8,898
Mineral products	13,345	-
Chemical products	17,091	27,762
Plastics and rubber	496	-
Hides, skins and leather articles	5,361	8,523
Wood and wood articles	22,410	218
Paper and paper articles		
Textiles	32,451	10,721
Footwear and other apparel		
Articles of stone and cement	2,583	-
Precious stones	42,886	33,118
Base metals	79,828	5,188
Machinery	10,133	8,593
Vehicles		
Precision instruments	17,391	19,555
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	-	154
Works of art	6,468	494
Other unclassified goods	3,300	
TOTAL	507,410	123,227

Totals may not add due to rounding. Data includes imports by South West Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, and Swaziland.